

Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, FR, TGEN

SUBJECT: U.S. FRENCH BILATERAL PROGRAM ON URBAN ENVIRONMENT -
LE VAUDREUIL

REF: STATE 213708

1. SUMMARY: USG AGENCIES ARE PARTICIPATING WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN PLANNING A NEW CITY, LE VAUDREUIL, DESIGNED TO STRESS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CITY HAS STARTED. AFTER A PERIOD OF ORGANIZATION AND RESEARCH, GOF HAS NOW BUDGETED AN INTENSIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND EXPECTS TO SEE INCREASING COOPERATION WITH USG IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. TO AID IN EVALUATING IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING PROPOSED IN REF, THE FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT IS SUBMITTED ON LE VAUDREUIL BILATERAL PROJECT.

3. IN 1970, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SELECTED THE NEW TOWN OF LE VAUDREUIL AS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT FOR THE REDUCTION OF URBAN POLLUTIONS. FRANCOIS XAVIER ORTOLI, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THEN MILLION ARE PLANNED BY THE GOVERN-
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MENT BETWEEN 1975 AND 1980, AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT DURING

THE SAME PERIODS ARE EXPECTED AT A LEVEL AROUND \$270 MILLION.

5. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SPENT AROUND \$1 MILLION FOR THE ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND RESEARCH ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE SITE. IN ADDITION, \$370,000 HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR, AND ANOTHER \$1.2 MILLION IS PROPOSED FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO SUPPORT CONTINUING STUDIES, RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS IN POLLUTION CONTROL.

6. WHILE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS ARE ANTICIPATED FROM THE PROGRAM, ITS PRINCIPAL VALUE LIES IN A UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNIQUES, PROBABLY OVER A CONSIDERABLE TIME-SCALE, FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT AND FOR THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, MEASUREMENT METHODS, MONITORING, MEASURING AND ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT AND CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION WILL BE INVESTIGATED FOR AIR, WATER, NOISE, SOLID WASTE, ECOLOGY AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, ALL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF NATURE.

7. THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF LE VAUDREUIL CONSIDERS COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. TO BE A KEY ELEMENT OF THIS EXPERIMENTAL CITY PROGRAM. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE "BASELINE" POLLUTION STUDIES, THE FRENCH NOW EXPECT TO ENTER MORE INTENSIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. EXPERTS. FRENCH MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT, REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. JOIN IN THE PROJECT, AS PART OF THE U.S. - FRENCH SCIENCE COOPERATION PROGRAM INITIATED BY PRESIDENTS NIXON AND POMPIDOU. PARIS EMBASSY AND STATE DEPARTMENT AGREED AND STATE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO BE THE LEAD AGENCY WITH PARTICIPATION OF INTERIOR, COMMERCE, DOT, CEQ, EPA, NBS, NSF AND HEW. THE GOF DESIGNATED THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AS THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAM. THIS COOPERATION REQUIRES NO U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT BEYOND THAT OF COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE. SEVERAL JOINT MEETINGS OF U.S. AND FRENCH EXPERTS WERE HELD IN PARIS AND WASHINGTON. THE U.S. TEAM WAS LED BY HUD UNDER SECRETARY RICHARD VAN DUSEN. HUD CHOSE PAUL BRACE, UNCLASSIFIED

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URBAN PLANNING EXPERT, AS PROJECT COORDINATOR AT THE PARIS EMBASSY. HE HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM WITH THE FRENCH, WHO HAVE OFTEN EXPRESSED TO HIM THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TOWN OF LE VAUDREUIL IS NOW UNDER WAY, INCLUDING A NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL, AN UPJOHN PHARMACEUTICAL CO. FACTORY, AND THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE'S

VACCINES AND DRUGS PRODUCTION PLANT. INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES WERE DEVELOPED FOR THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AND OTHER COMMUNITY BUILDINGS. A POPULATION OF 50,000 IS PLANNED FOR 1985 AND 140,000 FOR YEAR 2000. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY EXPENDED ABOUT \$22 MILLION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN, AND \$14 MILLION ARE FUNDED FOR THE PERIOD ENDING IN 1975. EXPENDITURES CLOSE TO \$60.

COMMENT: FRENCH HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING HUD AND OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES TO A BILATERAL REVIEW MEETING. THIS APPEARS TO COINCIDE WITH VISIT UNDER CONSIDERATION BY HUD (REFTEL). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BROAD EVALUATION OF USG TECHNICAL INTERESTS IN LE VAUDREUIL PROJECT, AND RECOMMENDS THAT HUD DECIDE

FAVORABLY ON THE VISIT OF THE LE VAUDREUIL INTERAGENCY GROUP. SUCH AN EVALUATION WILL ASSIST US IN MAKING DIFFICULT MANPOWER DECISIONS IN LIGHT OF APPARENT INTENTION HUD TO DISCONTINUE SUPPORT OF URBAN AFFAIRS OFFICER AT END OF CALENDAR YEAR REFTEL. HE IS PROJECT COORDINATOR AND IS ONLY EMBASSY OFFICER HAVING URBAN EXPERTISE. IRWIN

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